

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JAKART 09857 211014Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T JAKARTA 9857

EXDIS

FOR EA AMBASSADOR MASTERS, DAS OAKLEY AND TIMBS DIRECTOR
FRITS ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PEPR, ID, PP
SUBJECT: INDONESIAN REACTION TO DEMARCHE ON IRIAN JAYA AND TIMOR

REF: JAKARTA 9753

1. I KNOW YOU SHARE MY DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THE SOMEWHAT
ABRUPT ORAL REPLY WE RECEIVED FROM JUSUF TO OUR DEMARCH
ON EAST TIMOR AND IRIAN JAYA OPERATIONS. MURDANI HAS
PRIVATELY PROVIDED ME SOME BACKGROUND WHICH MIGHT HELP
US UNDERSTAND THIS REACTION AND WHICH I THEREFORE WOULD
LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU.

2. JUSUF HAS MOVED ENERGETICALLY TO ESTABLISH HIS
AUTHORITY OVER THE ARMED FORCES AFTER MANY YEARS OUT
OF THE CHAIN OF COMMAND. HE IS NEW TO THE JOB AND VERY
SENSITIVE TO DEVELOPMENTS WHICH WOULD SEEM TO PLACE
HIS NEW INITIATIVES IN JEOPARDY. ESTABLISHING CLOSER
RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES THAN HIS PREDECESSOR
DESIRED IS AMONG THESE EARLY INITIATIVES AND JUSUF
IS PURSUING THIS GOAL AT SOME PERSONAL RISK. ANOTHER
OF HIS PERSONAL INITIATIVES IS THE CAMPAIGN TO END

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THE TIMOR INSURGENCY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND REMOVE
THE DRAIN THIS HAS PLACED ON INDONESIAN MILITARY
MANPOWER AND RESOURCES. ALTHOUGH MURDANI ATTRIBUTED
THESE TWO INITIATIVES SOLELY TO JUSUF, I GAINED THE
IMPRESSION THAT HE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED HIMSELF WITH
THEM AS WELL. MURDANI IMPLIED THAT OUR DEMARCHE
THREATENED BOTH OF THESE INITIATIVES, ALTHOUGH I, OF

COURSE, REASSURED HIM ABOUT OUR DESIRE TO HELP JUSUF
REALIZE THE FIRST OF THEM.

3. JUSUF'S INDICATION THAT BOTH THE TIMOR AND THE IRIAN
JAYA OPERATIONS WILL CONTINUE DESPITE OUR DEMARCHE MAY
REFLECT SOME FACE-SAVING. I BELIEVE (BUT CANNOT, OF
COURSE, GUARANTEE) THAT THE GOI WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT
OUR CONCERNS, TO THE EXTENT AT LEAST OF CLOSELY MONITOR-
ING AND MODERATING THE MANNER IN WHICH THESE OPERA-
TIONS ARE PURSUED.
GARDNER

SECRET

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